



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

February 8, 2005

To all Applicants

Subject: Amendment No. 1
RFA No. 167-05-02
Kosovo Civil Society Program

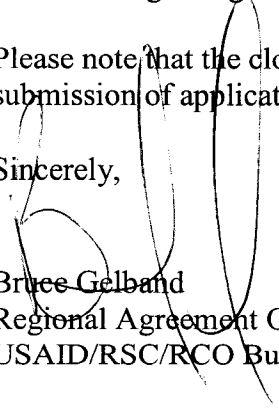
Dear Sir/Madam:

As a result of some of the questions received concerning this RFA, the attached revisions and clarifications are provided for the general consideration of interested parties.

This amendment also revises: (1) Cover Letter: to change the address for submission of application; (2) Section A: to change the address for sending applications and to include a provision regarding USAID policy on Disabilities.

Please note that the closing time and date of 17:00 Budapest Time, February 28, 2005 for submission of application remain unchanged.

Sincerely,


Bruce Gelband
Regional Agreement Officer
USAID/RSC/RCO Budapest

I. COVER LETTER

- a. On page 2, the email address under fourth line is replaced with the following in lieu thereof:

“if sent via e-mail to: Mr. Bruce Gelband at bgelband@usaid.gov”

- b. On page 2, the name and the phone number under paragraph eight is replaced with the following in lieu thereof:

“Attn: Bruce Gelband, Regional Agreement Officer
Telephone: (36-1) 475 4568”

- c. On page 3, the name under first paragraph is replaced with the following in lieu thereof:

“Attention: Bruce Gelband, Regional Agreement Officer”

II. SECTION A – GRANT APPLICATION FORMAT

Page 9, submission of applications:

- the name and the phone number in the third paragraph is replaced with the following in lieu thereof:

“Attention: Bruce Gelband
Telephone: (36-1) 475 4568”

- seventh line is replaced with the following:

“Attention: Bruce Gelband, Regional Agreement Officer.”

- Ninth line is replaced with the following:

“If sent via e-mail to: Bruce Gelband at bgelband@usaid.gov.”

Page 10: Grant Award

The following provision is added as new paragraph:

“USAID DISABILITY POLICY - ASSISTANCE (DECEMBER 2004)

(a) The objectives of the USAID Disability Policy are (1) to enhance the attainment of United States foreign assistance program goals by promoting the participation and equalization of opportunities of individuals with disabilities in USAID policy, country and sector strategies,

activity designs and implementation; (2) to increase awareness of issues of people with disabilities both within USAID programs and in host countries; (3) to engage other U.S. government agencies, host country counterparts, governments, implementing organizations and other donors in fostering a climate of nondiscrimination against people with disabilities; and (4) to support international advocacy for people with disabilities. The full text of the policy paper can be found at the following website:
<http://www.usaid.gov/about/disability/DISABPOL.FIN.html>.

(b) USAID therefore requires that the recipient not discriminate against people with disabilities in the implementation of USAID funded programs and that it make every effort to comply with the objectives of the USAID Disability Policy in performing the program under this grant or cooperative agreement. To that end and to the extent it can accomplish this goal within the scope of the program objectives, the recipient should demonstrate a comprehensive and consistent approach for including men, women and children with disabilities.”

III. USAID RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

Q.1) Please clarify the font size requirement of "10 characters per inch." Does this mean 10 pt font? Is there any requirement for font style such as Times New Roman?

Response:

Yes, this means 10 pt font. However, font style Times New Roman is not mandatory.

Q.2)a. The RFA is unclear about whether the implementer is expected to continue to support ATRC or FDI, as the NGO Resource Center and the Foundation respectively.

b. Does USAID seek to include these two organizations prominently in the program?

Response:

a. It is up to the applicant what has proposed on the project, since the idea for the overall proposal is open.

b. Yes, we have laid out the objectives and want to hear from the applicants how they see the best way to achieve the desired objectives. ATRC and FDI have the best track records to date, so any other proposals will have to make a strong case as to the support of alternative organizations that would result in the sustainable capacity that we want to establish and leave behind.

Q.3) As the RFA and MSI's civil society assessment both indicate, several local NGO networks have implemented high-profile national-level advocacy campaigns to date in Kosovo. However, the RFA calls for one national-level network of registered NGOs. Is USAID open to the idea of having several effective NGO networks that share information and collaborate where possible, or must the program focus on one formalized, overarching NGO network?

Response:

The idea was for One national- level advocacy (consisted of several registered NGOs) that will implement several issue based campaigns. We need a strong and viable network. Exactly how that comes about, we are willing to entertain various alternatives.

Q.4) Please confirm that the Foundation for Democratic Initiatives and the Advocacy Training and Resource Center are the institutions designated to serve as the respective Local Foundation and NGO Training and Resource Center for the project.

Response:

It depends from the idea of the proposal. Again, if anyone has a better idea, we would like to hear it. However, these two organizations appear to be the best on the ground right now and show considerable promise.

Q.5) Does USAID have a target in mind for the percentage of total project funds to be distributed as grants to local NGOs and training institutions?

Response:

This depends on the proposed approach. However, it is estimated that \$1.9 million will be used for these subawards.

Q.6) Do applicants have the flexibility to distribute grants directly to local organizations or should applicants distribute grants through the Local Foundation?

Response:

The distribution of grants should go through the Local Foundation. Since we are trying to strengthen a more sustainable approach to grant making, we think that it would be a lost opportunity not to run grants through some local organizations.

Q.7) In Section C, Part 4.0, “Results of the CSP Program,” result #1 states that “An official national coalition/network of registered NGOs is formed and has designed, implemented, monitored, and evaluated 6-9 issue specific advocacy campaigns.” Can you please clarify what designates an “official” coalition or network? Does this refer to its UNMIK registration status?

Response:

UNMIK registration refers to the NGOs, and an official coalition/network refers to the Memorandum between all NGOs operating within the network. Yes, official may be a poor choice of word, but the idea is for there to be a formal, written agreement negotiated between NGOs as the basis for their cooperation.

Q.8) As part of the Performance Monitoring section, the RFA states that improved scores on the USAID NGO Sustainability Index will be used to measure the impact of the Civil Society Program. Will the successful applicant be responsible for measuring progress made by the entire Kosovo NGO sector, or just those organizations that participate in project activities?

Response:

USAID NGO Sustainability Index measures the impact by the entire Kosovo NGO sector, having in the panel various NGOs throughout Kosovo, not just organizations that participate in project activities. The grantee will not have sole responsibility for the measurement but will be expected to assist.

Q.9) In light of the definition of civil society organizations provided in the first paragraph of the Context section in page 12 of the RFA, does this mean that USAID will permit sub-grants to organized, yet unregistered, civic groups in Kosovo?

Response:

At this point the KNAP/FDI sub-grantors, should provide the official registration when they apply for the sub-grant. It is assumed that it will be the same in the coming project.